

Dear BOS- As you may be aware this is the make it or break it point for many licensed operators, especially farmers. My husband and I own two licenses in Mendocino County, one nursery and one cultivation.

Having portal problems smack in the middle of the hardship for farmers is very challenging for farmers, added stress is not helping. At this time, the portal seems to be causing more problems that it was deemed to fix. Our farm missed the need to mess with using the portal, but listening to complaints by and following the others who are trying to use it makes us feel lucky to not have needed to join in the fun. We hold two licenses in Mendocino County, but were not on the list to use the portal as our renewal was up last December and we didnt need to then. We imagine some kinks will be worked out for us by the time we get to using it this year for the renewal process if that is needed for us.

Considering how understaffed the department is and that farmers are very overwhelmed currently we must ensure that everyone has a chance to get through. Why haven't we put more staff in this area? I am concerned for the folks who get denied, we expect there to be a repeal process at minimum since many of the problems seem to be the county's inconsistency in review, due dates and portal mishaps. We expect accountability. The point of the program is to be helping to support folks trying to maintain compliance!

In terms of the Local Equity Grant Program & New Jurisdictional Grant Program, we are applicants for our farm. As victims of the War on Drugs, we were approved. We have attended meetings for this program where folks who were in the first round of funding are having a plethora of problems, it makes us nervous as to how our experience will be. Where will the staff come from to manage this program? It seems that the company contracted to administer the program has been ineffective and the County must have better oversight.

As a very public figure, I, Chiah Rodriques have been very vocal about the problems and offering solutions to consumers, small operators and the wider world about small things one can do to help. But how can we really make a difference if the main problems live inside the government agencies who are supposed to understand, regulate and tax us? We can't even get the basics done, and in the meantime are expected to have sales in a failing market, expand, diversify, stay positive and keep showing up. The mountain seems impossible to climb most days. As one of the six women in the film Lady Buds, we get asked to speak to a lot of media and have been asked to speak to universities in other states. I can't lie! I must be real, the biggest problem for our farm personally has come from right here in our own county.

You are part of the problem and not the solution at this time, let's get it together folks before we lose the last viable revenue source in this county.

I am sending MCA's memos and attachments that were submitted to the Board of Supervisors for the following items being discussed tomorrow Feb 1, 2022:

- Item 4d - Crop Report
- Item 4e - Phase 3
- Item 4f - MCP Update
 - 4f Attachment 1 - Op Ed from Hannah Nelson & MCA
 - 4f Attachment 2 - Addendum to Op Ed

We support and agree to both Hannah Nelsons memo's and MCA's

-Chiah Rodriques and James M Beatty